**Panel 2**

**Israel-Palestine through the Lenses of the Settler-Colonial Paradigm**

*Directors:*

Dr Nicola Perugini (Al Quds Bard Honors College, Jerusalem, Palestine, [niper26@libero.it](mailto:niper26@libero.it))

Dr Enrico Bartolomei (University of Macerata, Italy, [bartolomeienrico@yahoo.it](mailto:bartolomeienrico@yahoo.it))

Deadline for panel proposals: July 30th, 2014

Although the Palestine/Israel question is often framed as a unique case study or as a national, ethnic, religious struggle, this panel suggests that settler colonialism constitutes a decisive paradigm in order to understand its ultimate nature. Shifting the analytical framework to settler colonialism is crucial both for its implications in terms of new ways of looking at the constant transformation of the Palestine/Israel question on the ground, and for advancing alternative perspectives for justice based on decolonization rather than territorial compromise or division along ethno-religious lines.

Settler colonial structures and narratives underpinning Israeli policies and practices toward Palestinians in Israel and in the territories occupied in 1967 will be a central object of analysis in this panel. The understanding of Zionism as a settler colonial project provides important insights into the origins and persistence of Israel as a settler colonial society, whose aim is not only to occupy a territory and plunder its resources, but more fundamentally to displace indigenous Palestinians and replace them with Jewish settlers. This understanding constitutes a fundamental epistemological and political tool for various disciplinary investigations in the region.

Building on a growing body of scholarship that reconceptualised the conflict as one of indigenous resistance against a settler colonial project, this panel also opens to comparison with other contemporary settler-colonial formations, such as USA, Australia, Northern Ireland, South Africa and Algeria. In outlining the theoretical assumptions and the political implications of this new perspective, this panel intends to engage with and present recent scholarship on settler colonialism in Palestine, thus encouraging scientific interaction with the international scholarly community and further stimulating cross-disciplinary studies that contributes to Colonial, Settler Colonial, Middle East and Palestine Studies.

The panel aims at attracting postgraduate researchers and postdoctoral scholars from a broad range of disciplines - anthropologists, historians, geographers, sociologists and political scientists are encouraged to apply. Papers may cover a variety of topics spanning the disciplines and research fields mentioned above. Outstanding papers will be considered for publication in a special issue of a peer-reviewed academic journal.

The panel will be conducted in English.